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prose styles. The A. S. church had decided influence on the Norse. See Taranger, *Den Angelsaksiske Kirkes Indflydelse paa den Norske*, and Bernhard Kahle, *Die Altnord. Sprache im Dienste des Christentums*.

VIII. Alf Torp, *Contribution to the Explanation of Germanic, especially Scand. Words* (pp. 171-188).—The words treated are: O. N. *andoefta*; O. N. *auðinn*; O. N. *bil*; Norw. dial. *bringe*; O. N. *brúðr*; Norw. dial. *brusk*; Norw. dial. *budda*; O. N. *djarfr*; O. N. *drengr*; Germanic *dumba*—Mod. Germ. *flau*; Norw. dial. *flint*; O. N. *flá*; O. N. *frekr*; O. N. *gamni*; O. N. *gá*; Norw. dial. *gaare*; O. N. *geistli*; D. dial. *gimmer*.

IX. Ebbe Hertzberg, *Another Christian Legal Proposal of the Thirteenth Century* (pp. 189-204).

X. Hjalmar Falk, *On the Intercalation of j with Strengthening and especially Depreciating Meaning in Scand. Words* (pp. 205-216). The theory of the development of language according to the principle of greatest ease has its exceptions. Falk gives a list of seventy-six words beginning with the labials *b*, *f*, *p*, in which a *j* is inserted after the consonant so that the word is made to begin with a strengthened explosive. He is disposed to accept Ross's explanation that it is by analogy with interjections of disdain, etc. (for example, *fy*, *pyt*, *bah*), that the blown-out breath after *f* or *p* has called forth an echo in *j*, which was strong enough to make itself effective as an independent sound. After one had grown accustomed to feel the *j* sound as an expression of disdain, it could easily have come to be inserted after other consonants. Yet there are many words with such an inserted *j* which do not have a depreciating meaning; a large group is found in names for all sorts of noise, really onomatopoeic words. Here a *j* has been inserted without reference to the above-mentioned analogy. Falk's material shows the insertion of *j* in all the chief Scand. languages. The phenomenon does not seem to have been known in Old Norse.

XI. Gustav Storm, *Old Guild Statutes from Trondhjem* (pp. 217-226). S. prints, translates, and comments on an interesting fragment of a MS., dating from the twelfth or thirteenth century, which came to hand too late to be in-

serted in the splendid edition of *Norway's Old Laws*, of which S. has been the editor. It throws light on some obscure points in the history of the guilds. A facsimile of the MS. accompanies the article.

WILLIAM HENRY SCHOFIELD.

Copenhagen.

#### GERMAN SCIENCE READERS.

*A Scientific German Reader*, by GEORGE THEODORE DIPPOLD, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Modern Languages at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Boston: Ginn and Company, 1895. 8vo, pp. iv, 322.

*German Scientific Reading*, with Notes and Vocabulary, by H. C. G. BRANDT, Ph. D., Professor of German in Hamilton College; and W. C. DAY, Ph. D., Professor of Chemistry in Swarthmore College. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1897. 8vo, pp. vi, 269.

THE value of readings in elementary German science for students of technical institutions and science courses in our universities and colleges is unquestioned. As German is now almost the universal language of science, it is imperative upon the worker in any branch of science that he should be able to follow the results of German scholarship in his particular field, which can be done, to a large extent, only in the original language. Such readings, begun as soon as possible after the student has mastered the rudiments of grammar and can read easy ordinary prose, smooth the way for that reading which he must do in the higher classes and in after life, by acquainting him with the vocabulary and the style of scientific writers. Then, too, the very fact that a foreign language is the vehicle of instruction aids to impress the elementary truths of science more vividly upon the mind of the pupil. But surely such reading ought not to be confined to the needs and purposes of students of science. Properly selected, it could be made a profitable feature of every German course. As mere drill in translation, in the exact rendering of a given text into correct and concise English, and in the increase of vocabulary in both languages, such reading can hardly be excelled. Familiar words have here a differ-

ent meaning, and the participial construction—so convenient for the author who desires to say much in a short space, but so puzzling to the uninitiated—is found here in all its baleful charm. It is an interesting, though cruel, experiment to place a page of scientific German before the student of even more than average ability, and notice how soon he is floundering helplessly! Yet he should be made acquainted with the compactness and exactness of German prose as well as with its elegancies and refinements.

The books named above are admirably adapted for the purposes of both the ordinary college course and the specifically scientific courses, Brandt and Day more especially for the latter. The selections are judiciously made, by scholars peculiarly fitted for the task, from authorities in the various lines of work; and the subjects themselves cover practically all the sciences included in the first year of a scientific curriculum, perhaps more. Although similar in scope, the two books are sufficiently different in their contents to supplement each other. Thus Dippold has essays on the *Dampfmaschine* and on *Elementar-Geometrie*, which subjects are not treated in Brandt and Day; while the latter contains pages on *Electrotechnik* and *Kosmische Physik*, which are not represented in Dippold. It would be found valuable to read the article on *Anthropologie* in Dippold and that on *Biologie* in Brandt and Day together, even though they have some sections in common. In the notes to each we find good explanations of the participial construction; that in Brandt and Day being more fully illustrated by examples drawn from the first few pages.

To speak of particular features of each work; the diagrams and cuts illustrative of the text in Dippold are to be commended. Sections i-x of *Chemie*, i-v and viii of *Physik*, and all of the *Dampfmaschine* and *Elementar-Geometrie* were apparently written by the editor, since the sources and authors of the other articles are mentioned in the notes. These presumably original articles and sections of articles are written in a good, scientific style, and are authoritative and exact in statement. The selected articles are drawn principally from different books of the *Sammlung Götschen* or from *Das*

*neue Buch der Erfindungen*, etc., both favorably known in German schools. A feature which will appeal to many instructors is the series of exercises, for translation from English into German, based upon the German text. These can be made very valuable, either as impromptu exercises or for preparation out of the class-room. The lack of a Vocabulary, a regrettable fact, is somewhat compensated for by the very ample notes, which also include biographical and other information. A suggestion based upon experience may be allowed here: It will be found valuable to require of the pupil a great deal of encyclopedic knowledge usually contained in notes, by assigning the various references to different members of the class. The pedagogic utility of such a plan is apparent, and it also accustoms the student to the use of books of reference. It cannot be denied, however, that it is a great convenience to have such information in short space and so admirably compiled as here.

The most commendable feature of Brandt and Day is the excellent and complete Vocabulary. When we remember the entire lack of a Technological Dictionary in German and English which represents the advance of science in the last ten years, it will be recognised that this glossary, modern because the selections are modern, has a value beyond the limits of the volume. It was a happy thought to include a selection each of a more general character from A. von Humboldt and from Goethe, not alone because (to quote from the preface): "the fine specimens of description by those masters of the art ought to be acceptable to" the student of science "and should broaden the narrow horizon of his specialty," but also because, if read first, these articles will form an excellent transition for the general student from ordinary to scientific prose. It is not quite clear why these extracts are not also printed in Roman type, unless it be to mark the distinction between them and the strictly scientific part of the volume. When the notes to so many editions for school and college use seem to be written with the object of increasing the bulk of the volume or to relieve the student of the use of grammar, dictionary and encyclopedia, some instructors will be

grateful that the editors have reduced the scope of the Notes to that which is absolutely essential. Would it not have been advisable, however, to have given, either in the Notes or at the close of each subject, the title of the author and treatise from which that portion of the reader was drawn? Without doubt many students and instructors will desire to have this information, especially as the extract may awaken a desire to read the entire work.

In conclusion, the impression may be recorded, that these Science Readers are destined, alone or (better) in conjunction with each other, to supersede all similar works which have yet appeared in this country.

GEORGE STUART COLLINS.

*Polytechnic Institute, Brooklyn.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### NOTES ON DONNE.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—K. Pietsch in his notes on Schelling's *Book of Elizabethan Lyrics* in a former number (vol. xi, 1896) of your journal, explains Donne's line "Get with child a mandrake root," by quoting, from Delius, Reed's citation of Bulleine concerning the mandrake, "without the death of some living thing it cannot be drawn out of the earth to man's use." The writer adds,

"It would undoubtedly have been unheard of, and is, therefore, ranked as an impossibility by the poet, to get a mandrake root with a child,"

that is, by means of a child.

Donne's uses of the mandrake elsewhere (*Elegy on the Death of Prince Henry*, l. 53 f., *The Progress of the soul*, ll. 131-170) not only add no probability to this explanation, but one example proves it to be incorrect. Here Eve, searching for a remedy to apply to her cradled child whose

"... moist red eyes

Had never shutt, nor slept, since it saw light,"

pulls up the plant without harm,

"Poppie she knew, she knew the mandrake's might,  
And tore up both, and so cooled her child's blood."

The expression "gett with chylde" is rather to be taken in its usual sense of to cause to be-

come pregnant; the reason to "gett with chylde a mandrake roote" is used as an example of the impossible may be seen from Mr. Grosart's note to line 131 of *The Progress of the Soul* (Donne, in Fuller Worthies Library, i, 92).

Here one is reminded that the roots of the plant occasionally presented a resemblance to the human figure, and Parkinson in *Theat. Botan.* (1640) is quoted as follows:

"and, therefore, those idle formes of the mandrakes and womandrakes, as they are foolishly so called, which have been exposed to publick view, both in ours and other lands and countries, are utterly deceitful, being the work of cunning knaves, only to get mony by their forgery."

Mr. Grosart also notes

"It would seem by his 'Paradisus' that Parkinson tried to get the city magistrates to forbid the exhibition of these indecent forgeries, ... as in the later cases of Anatomical Museums."

The description of the mandrake in *The Progress of the Soul*, ll. 141-150 accords well with this suggestion while no mention in Donne's poetry substantiates the former explanation, which, too, is less in harmony with the spirit of Donne's work than that now suggested.

As a parallel to Donne's somewhat celebrated compass metaphor (*Obsequies of Lord Harrington*, l. 107 f. *Upon partinge from His Mistris*, l. 24 f.) the lines of Carew are probably not unfamiliar:

"You are the compass; and I never sound  
Beyond your circle, neither can I show  
Aught, but what first expressed is in you."  
*To Celia, on Love's Ubiquity*, l. 35 f.

and

"For, like a Compass, on your love  
One foot is fixed, and cannot move:  
Th' other may follow the blind guide  
Of giddy Fortune, but not slide  
Beyond your service, nor dare venture  
To wander far from you the centre."  
*Excuse of Absence-Cosens' MS.*, l. 3 f.

I have not, however, seen attention called to the use of the same figure in a quotation sometimes made from Omar Khayyam:

"You and I are the image of a pair of compasses; though we have two heads we have one body; when we have fixed the centre for our circle, we bring our heads together at the end."